

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Jerry B. Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Ken Ivory

Rep. Mike K. McKell
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. R. Curt Webb
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Members Absent:

Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Anna M. Allen, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Dabakis, Sen. Knudson, Sen. Okerlund, Rep. Brown, Rep. Ivory, and Rep. Wiley absent for the vote.

2. Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office Activities and Expenditures

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Coordinator, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, stated the mission of the office and described the importance of public lands. She reported on the office's activities and expenditures, specifically discussing expenditures for sage grouse protection and the preparation of a public lands transfer study and economic analysis. She also discussed the office's budget and how the office is funded. Ms. Clarke responded to questions from the committee.

3. R.S. 2477 Plan

Ms. Clarke discussed and distributed "FY 2014 Updated Plan for R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way" and introduced Mr. Harry Souvall, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, and Section Chief, Public Lands Section.

Mr. Souvall gave a brief overview of the R.S. 2477 plan adopted by the Constitutional Defense Council. He discussed the filing of the lawsuits relating to R.S. 2477, what the office has done since the filings, and goals of the office regarding R.S. 2477 cases. Mr. Souvall responded to questions from the committee.

Ms. Heather Bennett, For Kids and Lands, expressed concern about Utah Code Title 63L, Chapter 6, Transfer of Public Lands Act, and the state's lawsuits regarding highway rights-of-way. She discussed reasons why For Kids and Lands is against these initiatives: the group feels that the lawsuits will cost taxpayers money that could be invested in education, the initiatives will not improve the education funding situation, and the initiatives may harm public lands.

Mr. Jim Thompson, For Kids and Lands, discussed his interest in preserving public lands. He stated that he is a scout leader, and hiking is a major activity for the scouts. He said that, in his experience, in places where vehicles have access, there is usually more disruption to the area.

Ms. Bennett responded to questions from the committee.

4. Department of Environmental Quality Emerging Issues

Ms. Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, introduced the emerging issues of maintaining clean drinking water and the Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 state implementation plan.

Mr. Ken Bousfield, Director, Division of Drinking Water, distributed "DDQ Fees." He outlined federal funding cuts that affect the division and proposed fees to address these funding cuts. Mr. Bousfield responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, briefly updated the committee on the PM 2.5 state implementation plan, which aims to improve winter air quality in Utah. He distributed "PM 2.5 State Implementation Plan Update" and the "Utah Division of Air Quality 2012 Annual Report." Mr. Bird responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Mike Kennedy introduced two of his constituents to give testimony on this issue.

Ms. Marisa Wright, member of the public and former member of the Cedar Hills City Council, expressed concern about the air quality in Utah and her hope that the state can address the situation.

Dr. Cherlyee Eberting, dermatologist, also discussed air quality in Utah, specifically her struggles with the burning of yard waste. She asked what the state can do about air quality and emphasized the importance of finding a way to decrease the level of particulate matter in Utah's air.

Chair Jenkins asked Ms. Smith to respond to these issues at the next committee meeting.

5. Sunset Review — Air Conservation Act

The committee did not discuss this agenda item due to lack of time.

6. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Noel moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen, Sen. Hinkins, Rep. McKell, Rep. Nelson, and Rep. Webb absent for the vote.

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.